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"AGONIZING REAPPRAISAL"

Recent speeches by the President and by the Secretary of State indicate that they are finally conceding, in the words of Mr. Eisenhower, that "the world is changing, and in these days it changes rapidly. A policy that was good six months ago is not necessarily now of any validity." During the same week that the President made that assertion, Mr. Dulles was proclaiming that "the time has come to advance NATO" from something more than a military alliance.

Apparently the Administration has been engaging in an "agonizing reappraisal" of its policies. But regrettably this reappraising has been forced upon it by allied pressures and Soviet moves. And it is very possible that first-hand reports about what has happened in Russia, from two experts who cannot be accused of "softness toward Communism," have enabled our leaders to see more clearly what is going on abroad. These two are Charles E. Bohlen, our ambassador to Russia, and Allen W. Dulles, director of our Central Intelligence Agency, whose organization is charged with keeping abreast of happenings and conditions in the Soviet—as well as in other nations of the world.

The reports of these two specialists tend to refute the very recent allegations of both the President and the Secretary of State that Russia's change of tactics was due to her weakness and our strength. Mr. Dulles (brother of J. Foster) stressed a fact that most Americans do not want to acknowledge, that Russia is today a great industrial power, second only to our own. And he impresses upon us that the U.S.S.R. has telescoped the West's century and a half of industrial revolution into a comparatively few years. And we are reminded that the chief aim of Russia's sixth Five Year Plan is to overtake and surpass the U.S.A. and other capitalist countries. However, Allen Dulles assures us that we still have a very great lead, but the Soviet rate of progress is rapid. "In the technical, engineering and industrial fields, the Soviets can achieve any particular objective we can." And it is wrong to assume that Russia will not keep her promises to those nations she is offering aid, for she can keep them too at the expense of the Russian consumers.

The facts revealed to Washington officials by these two experts are not entirely new. Other officials and non-officials have been calling attention to the "changing world," including Russia for months. But only now is there acknowledgement by the President and Mr. Dulles that a policy that worked years or even weeks ago "is not necessarily now of validity."